COLCHESTER BOARD OF EDUCATION
Regular Meeting

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Tuesday, September 9, 2025
6:00 PM
William J. Johnston Middle School BlackBox Theatre

MINUTES

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT : Chair Donna Antonacci, Vice-Chair Christopher Rivers, Secretary Margo Gignac, Alexander Oliphant, Michelle Millington, and Stefanie Tracey-Calash.

ADMINISTRATION PRESENT : Superintendent Daniel P. Sullivan, III, Assistant Superintendent Jessica L. Kuckel, Director of Pupil Services Eve Hurley, Assistant Director of Pupil Services Rebecca Tedesco, Bacon Academy (BA) Principal Amy Begué, BA Assistant Principal Jennifer Martin, BA Assistant Principal Michael Mal, Colchester Elementary School (CES) Assistant Principal Kelly Bahre.

OTHERS PRESENT : Director of Finance and Operations Rachel Linkkila, Instructional Technology Coordinator Barbara Johnson, Executive Assistant to the Superintendent Alyssa Fratoni, Director of Educational Operations Andrew Barillari, Student Board Member Abigail Stillwell, Student Board Member Toheed Usman.

1. **MEETING OPENING**
   1.1. Call to Order
   D.Antonacci called the meeting to order at 6:01 PM

   1.2 Roll Call
   All Board Members present except R.Gignac.

   1.3 Pledge of Allegiance

2. ***ADDITIONS / CHANGES TO THE AGENDA**
   2.1. *New Agenda Item
   Motion by: D.Antonacci
   Motion to add policy changes to Agenda Item 10
   Second: S.Tracey-Calash
   Roll Call: All in favor
   Vote: Motion carried

3. **RECOGNITIONS**
   3.1. Vision of a Colchester Learner Presentation

CES Assistant Principal Bahre, WJ Library Media Specialist Lane, BA Teacher Emery and BA Student Cora gave the presentation from the work over the summer that they and others from across the district did to outline what makes our school community unique. They defined the 7 attributes that a Colchester Learner should have once they leave our schools. Those 7 are Confident and Self Aware, Curious and Creative Thinker, Effective Communicator, Collaborative Contributor, Problem Solver, Integrity, and Empathetic and Kind. The next steps are to communicate with staff for a

uniform roll out and develop checklists and rubrics to measure student growth.

4. STUDENT BOARD MEMBER REPORT

4.1. Report from Student Board Members

The school year began with Senior Sunrise, followed by a First Day Club celebration featuring a pep rally, food trucks, and activities.

Fall sports are underway - volleyball has two wins, and cross country placed second at the Blue Dragon meet. Upcoming soccer and football games include a home football game this Saturday.

Picture day for underclassmen and staff was September 4; senior portraits are taking place this week. Yearbooks are now on sale.

Clubs such as student council and peer mentoring have begun meeting. Eastern credit is free this year, with many AP classes offering both AP and Eastern credit. Classes are progressing smoothly, and students are settling into routines with a positive start to the year.

5. PUBLIC COMMENT

5.1. For Public Comments, please see Policy 1120 *Public Comment and Correspondence at Board Meetings*

None.

6. REPORT FROM SCHOOL LIAISONS

6.1. CES

Students are excited to be back and adjusting well. The school's mantra—*take care of yourself, each other, and our school*—is being embraced. Staff have also adopted "Fun Fridays" to build school spirit.

6.2. JJIS

Nothing to report.

6.3. WJJMS

A walk through was done with the new building admin before the start of school. Keeping an eye on some preventative maintenance work that will be needing attention soon.

6.4. BA

Nothing to report.

7. *CONSENT AGENDA

7.1. *Approval of Regular Meeting Minutes of August 19, 2025

Motion by: C.Rivers
Motion to approve Consent Agenda
Second: M.Millington
Roll Call: All in favor
Vote: Motion carried

7.2. *Approval of WJ Field Trip to NY in April

See 7.1

7.3. *Approval of JJIS Disposal Request

See 7.1

8. REPORT FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

8.1. Opening of School

The year has started off well. Colchester Police increased presence at all schools to reassure the community after a recent tragedy. The town ensured safe passage for student walkers after the walking bridge went out. All schools opened fully staffed—thanks to the admin team and central office for successful hiring.

8.2. Facilities Update

8.2a Review of Capital Plan

C. Rivers asked to update documentation with progress and obtain a true estimate for completion of tasks on the Capital Plan.

A. Barillari reported the Fire Alarm system at CES is at end of life; vendors are providing quotes, and grant options are being explored.

Discussion on disposal of the Portables at BA due to health and safety concerns and future needs for students and staff. C. Rivers requested options (need vs. no need, leasing vs. owning). A. Begue and A. Barillari will follow up.

8.2b Indoor Air Quality

A.Barillari reported that annual testing requirements have been budgeted, with costs based on each building's square footage. The goal is to complete one school per year. The same grant as the HVAC grant applies. Assessments are included in the budget, but repair costs are not.

8.2c BA HVAC

A.Barillari reports that Demo work begins 9/15. Parts are ordered and expected in roughly four weeks. A walkthrough will be scheduled to review the layout before cold weather sets in. New heat pumps will support the aging heating system. Regular updates will continue to be shared with the community.

8.2d BA Roof

Efforts continue to keep the roof dry, but replacement is needed soon to avoid safety hazards.

8.2e Personnel Update

Hired maintainer Jacob Richards, a licensed gas professional with 20+ years of mechanical experience. He is a Colchester resident with children in the schools.

9. REPORT FROM COMMITTEES

9.1. Budget Finance Committee

C.Rivers discussed the end of year transfers and stated that we are looking at roughly $50 remaining as we close out the fiscal year 2025.

9.2. Curriculum Committee

Meeting in October.

9.3. Facilities Committee

A meeting has not been scheduled yet.

9.4. Policy Committee

Policy changes in the next section of the agenda.

10. POLICY CHANGES

10.1. 4000 *Alcohol, Tobacco and Drug Free Workplace*

Motion by: M.Gignac

Motion to approve non-substantive changes to all policies presented tonight

Second: C.Rivers

Roll Call: All in Favor

Vote: Motion Carried

10.2. 4000 *Bloodborne Pathogens*

10.3. 4000 *Sudden Cardiac Arrest Awareness for Intramural and Interscholastic Athletics*

10.4. 4218.4 *Surveillance on School Property*

10.5. 4000 *Concussion Management and Training for Athletic Coaches*
10.6. 4000 *Use and Disclosure of Criminal Justice Information*
10.7. 4000 *Suspension / Administrative Leave*
10.8. 4000 *Concepts and Roles in Personnel*

11. *PRIORITY DISCUSSION / ACTION ITEMS

11.1. Cafeteria Supervisors Union Contract

The self-funded program's contract is up for renewal. After review of comparable schools, a 3-year contract with a market adjustment is recommended. The structure includes four managers and a stipend director position, aligning with other programs. No budget impact is expected for the next few years.

Motion by: C.Rivers
Motion to approve going forward with the Cafeteria Supervisors Union Contract
Second: A.Oliphant
Roll Call: All in favor
Vote: Motion carried

11.2. Special Education Update

E.Hurley reported on efforts to meet student needs while promoting greater independence. Transitioning students to regular buses when possible is saving money and supporting peer integration.

11.3. District Goals
Motion by: M.Gignac
Motion to adopt the presented goals for the 2025-2026 school year
Second: S.Tracey-Calash
Roll Call: All in favor
Vote: Motion carried

12. BOARD ANNOUNCEMENTS / INFORMATION ITEMS

12.1. Items of Correspondence

Secretary M.Gignac summarized the two items of correspondence received. The first from Michael Dubreuil, stating that he is outraged at the Boards about budget and accountability. The second from Rayna Northcutt, a parent at CES, who praised the staff for how well the transition into pre-k went for her child.

12.2. Next Meeting

The next Regular Board of Education meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, October 14, 2025.

13. ADJOURNMENT

Motion by: M.Gignac
Motion to adjourn.
Second: C.Rivers
Roll Call: All in favor
Vote: Motion carried

D.Antonacci adjourned the meeting at 8:00 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Afratoni

Alyssa Fratoni
Executive Assistant to the Superintendent